

Appl. No. 10/790,394
Response to Office Action mailed June 27, 2006

Atty Dkt. No. 114951-006

LISTING OF CLAIMS

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This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (original): A lanyard, comprising:

a load-supporting outer sheath;

a heat shrunk elongation member extending along an inside of the outer sheath; and

first and second spaced apart connection locations in which the elongation member is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath;

wherein, the elongation member has an un-stretched heat shrunk length between the first and second connection locations substantially shorter than a length of the load-supporting outer sheath between the first and second connection locations.

Claim 2 (original): The lanyard of claim 1, further comprising a binder yarn and wherein the elongation member is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath by the binder yarn.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the elongation member has elongation yarns and is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath by the elongation yarns and yarns of the load-supporting outer sheath being interlaced together.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 3, further comprising a binder yarn interlaced with the elongation yarns and the yarns of the load-supporting outer sheath.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the elongation member is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath by stitching.

Appl. No. 10/790,394
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Claim 6 (original): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein at least one of the elongation member and the load-supporting outer sheath is selected from the group consisting of woven materials, braided materials, knitted materials, non-woven materials, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein a portion of the lanyard has a portion of the elongation member extending to an exterior surface of the load-supporting outer sheath.

Claim 8 (original): A lanyard, comprising:
a tubular-shaped webbing;
heat-shrunk elongation yarns inside of the tubular-shaped webbing;
first and second spaced apart binder portions in which the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing; and
an expansion portion between the first and second binder portions in which the heat shrunk elongation yarns are extensible relative to the tubular-shaped webbing and the tubular-shaped webbing is in a gathered position.

Claim 9 (original): The lanyard of claim 8, further comprising a binder yarn and wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing by the binder yarn.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing by the heat-shrunk elongation yarns and yarns of the tubular-shaped webbing being interlaced together.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 10, further comprising a binder yarn interlaced with the heat-shrunk elongation yarns and the yarns of the tubular-shaped webbing.

Appl. No. 10/790,394
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Atty Dkt. No. 114951-006

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing by stitching.

Claim 13 (original): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein at least one of the heat-shrunk elongation yarns and the tubular-shaped webbing is selected from the group consisting of woven materials, braided materials, knitted materials, non-woven materials, and combinations thereof.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, further comprising another binder portion in which the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing with a different structure than the first and second binder portions.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, further comprising a hardware attachment portion having a portion of the heat-shrunk elongation yarns extending to an outside of the tubular-shaped webbing.

Claims 16-22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (new): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the heat shrunken elongation member has a first state prior to heat shrinking of being not heat shrunken and a second state after heat shrinking, and wherein the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunken elongation member in the first state are formed substantially simultaneously together as a one-piece webbing.

Claim 24 (new): The lanyard of claim 23, wherein relative lengths of the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunken elongation member in the first state are adjusted by heat treatment of the one-piece webbing.

Appl. No. 10/790,394
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Claim 25 (new): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns has a first state prior to heat shrinking of being not heat shrunken and a second state after heat shrinking, and wherein the tubular-shaped webbing and the heat-shrunk elongation yarns in the first state are formed substantially simultaneously together as a one-piece webbing.

Claim 26 (new): The lanyard of claim 25, wherein relative lengths of the tubular-shaped webbing and the heat-shrunk elongation yarns in the first state are adjusted by heat treatment of the one-piece webbing.